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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

NCR Docket No. 12717

Application of:

SCHEURICH, LARRY et al.

Group Art Unit: 2162

Serial No. 09/925,103

Examiner: LY, ANH

Filed: August 9, 2001

For: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR DEFINING EXECUTABLE SEQUENCES
TO PROCESS INFORMATION FROM A DATA COLLECTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

APPEAL BRIEF TRANSMITTAL LETTER

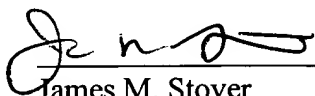
Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is an Appeal Brief to the Final Rejection dated
December 9, 2005.

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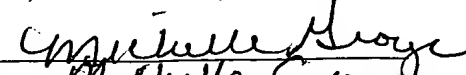
Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATION OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

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By: 
Name: Michelle George



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Dayton, Ohio

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For: **SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR DEFINING EXECUTABLE
SEQUENCES TO PROCESS INFORMATION FROM A DATA
COLLECTION**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

BRIEF ON APPEAL

Sir:

This is an Appeal Brief in furtherance of the Notice of Appeal filed on June 8, 2006. In light of this Brief, Applicant asks the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences to reconsider this application.

08/11/2006 H8UTEMA1 00000090 140225 09925103

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CERTIFICATION OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

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By: Michelle George
Name: Michelle George

(I) REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The present application is assigned to NCR Corporation.

(II) RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are currently no known active appeals or interferences related to the present application.

(III) STATUS OF CLAIMS

The above-identified patent application was filed on August 9, 2001 with original claims 1-41. Claims 13, 24, 37 and 40 have been cancelled. Claims 1-12, 14-23, 25-36, 38, 39, and 41 remain active and stand rejected. Copies of the claims in their current form are provided in the Claims Appendix (section VIII) of this Appeal Brief.

(IV) STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

On April 10, 2006 a reply was filed by Applicant to the December 9, 2005 final action. The reply requested the cancellation of claims 37 and 40 and presented further argument in support of patentability, without additional amendment to claims 1-12, 14-23, 25-36, 38, 39, and 41. In a responsive Advisory Action dated May 5, 2006 the Examiner found Applicant's argument after final did not place the application in condition for allowance, prompting Applicant's filing of the Notice of Appeal on June 8, 2006. The Advisory Action indicated that for purposes of appeal, the amendment dated April 10, 2006 cancelling claims 37 and 40 would be entered.

(V) SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

Claim 1

Claim 1 recites a computer-implemented method for presenting a user interface for construction of an executable sequence to automate a decision-making process based on a collection of data (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 11, lines 12-13; Figure 3, element 312), the method comprising: displaying representations in the user interface of a plurality of discrete executable directives encapsulating their respective logic associated with the decision-making process, wherein at least one of the discrete executable directives defines a query against the collection of data (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 62, lines 9-14; Figure 15A), at least one of the discrete executable directives defines an analysis directive to analyze information derived from the query (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 63, line 28 – pg. 64, line 10; Figure 15H), and at least one of the discrete executable directives defines a distribution directive to distribute information based on analysis performed by the analysis directive (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 23, lines 5-12); and accepting user input to assemble a set of the discrete executable directives into a schedulable executable sequence (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 65, lines 1-15; Figure 15M), wherein at least one of the discrete executable directives is selected from a menu, and wherein the executable sequence comprises: at least one discrete executable directive defining a query against the collection of data (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 65, lines 16-25; Figure 15N), followed at some time by at least one discrete executable analysis directive operable to analyze information derived from the at least one discrete executable directive defining the query (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 65, lines 26-28, Figure 15O), followed at some time by at least one discrete executable distribution directive operable to distribute information based on analysis performed by the at least one discrete executable analysis directive (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 66, lines 1-2; Figure 15P).

Claim 21

Claim 21 recites a computer-implemented method of presenting a user interface for creating executable sequences from processing directives (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 13, lines 1-18; Figure 5), the method comprising: presenting a first display area comprising graphical representations of available processing directives (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 69, lines 25-27; Figures 16A, area 1604), wherein at least one of processing directives is selected from a menu (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 69, lines 25-27; Figures 16A, elements 1610), and wherein the processing directives comprise query directives (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 69, lines 25-27; Figures 16A, area 1604, “QUERY”), analysis directives (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 69, lines 25-27; Figures 16A, area 1604, “ANALYSIS”), and distribution directives (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 69, lines 25-27; Figures 16A, area 1604, “DISTRIBUTION”); presenting a second display area comprising graphical representations of processing directives selected as included in the executable sequence (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 69, lines 25-27; Figures 16A, area 1608); depicting coupled processing directives as graphically linked and conditionally coupled processing directives as graphically linked with a depiction of a condition associated with the link (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 69, lines 25-27; Figures 16A, images displayed in area 1604,); accepting a drag and drop operation to drop a processing directive from the first display area into the second display area (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 69, lines 25-28); and responsive to the drag and drop operation, adding the processing directive to the executable sequence, wherein the executable sequence comprises at least one query directive, at least one analysis directive, and at least one distribution directive (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 69, line 23 through pg. 70, line 20; Figure 16A).

Claim 22

Claim 22 recites a computer-implemented method of defining query-based processing to be performed for a collection of data (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 11, lines 12-13; Figure 3, element 312), the method comprising: selecting a plurality of processing directives, wherein the processing directives are operable to generate, process, and distribute information from the collection of data (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 62, line 4 through pg. 66, line 2; Figures 15A-15P), at least one of the processing directives is a query (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 62, lines 9-14; Figure 15A), and at least one of the processing directives is a template (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 68, line 10 through pg. 69, line 17; Figures 15Z-15CC), wherein at least one of processing directives is selected from a menu; associating the processing directives and the parameters into a schedulable executable sequence; and specifying parameters for binding to the template to be used when the processing directives are executed (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 62, line 4 through pg. 69 line 17; Figures 15A-15FF).

Claim 27

Claim 27 recites a method of selectively distributing information from a data warehouse (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 16, line 15 through pg. 19, line 16; Figures 8-9), the method comprising: accepting a set of queries to be periodically run against the data warehouse (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 16, lines 17-18; Figure 8), wherein the queries generate result sets (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 16, lines 17-20; Figure 8, element 842), and wherein at least one of the queries is selected from a menu (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 62, lines 9-14; Figures 15A); accepting a set of filters to selectively identify result sets of interest out of the result sets generated from the queries, wherein at least one of the filters is selected from a menu (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 63, lines 13-27; Figures 15F-15G); and accepting a set of

distribution instructions indicating how the result sets of interest are to be distributed (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 16, line 25), wherein at least one of the distribution instructions is selected from a menu (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 23, lines 5-12).

Claim 33

Claim 33 recites a computer-based system for presenting a user interface for construction of an executable sequence to automate a decision-making process based on a collection of data, the system comprising: a user interface element for accepting user input to configure a plurality of discrete executable directives encapsulating their respective logic associated with the decision-making process (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 62, line 4 through pg. 69 line 17; Figures 15A-15FF), wherein at least one of the discrete executable directives defines a query against the collection of data (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 62, lines 9-14; Figure 15A), at least one of the discrete executable directives defines an analysis directive to analyze information derived from the query (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 63, line 28 – pg. 64, line 10; Figure 15H), and at least one of the discrete executable directives defines a distribution directive to distribute information based on the analysis (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 23, lines 5-12); and a user interface element for associating the plurality of discrete executable directives into an executable sequence (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 65, lines 1-15; Figure 15M), wherein at least one of the discrete executable directives is selected from a menu, and wherein the executable sequence comprises at least one query against the collection of data (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 65, lines 16-25; Figure 15N), followed by at least one analysis directive operable to analyze information derived from the at least one query (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 65, lines 26-28, Figure 15O), followed by at least one

distribution directive operable to distribute information based on the at least one analysis directive (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 66, lines 1-2; Figure 15P).

Claim 36

Claim 36 recites a computer user interface for entering a combined unit of querying, filtering, and distribution, the user interface comprising: means for entering a series of steps, wherein at least one of the steps is a query (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 62, lines 9-14; Figure 15A), at least one of the steps is a filter for filtering results generated based on the query (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 63, lines 13-27; Figures 15F-15G), and at least one of the steps is a distribution directive indicating how the filtered results are to be distributed (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 23, lines 5-12), and wherein at least one of the steps is selected from a menu (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 62, line 4 through pg. 66 line 9; Figures 15A-15Q); and means for scheduling the steps for automatic periodic execution (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 66, line 15 through pg. 67 line 10; Figure 15R).

Claim 38

Claim 38 recites a computer user interface for designating an executable sequence for providing an analysis of a collection of data, the computer user interface comprising: a presentation of a list of queries (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 62, lines 9-14; Figure 15A), from which a user can select, from a menu, one or more queries to be added to the sequence (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 65, lines 16-25; Figure 15N); a presentation of a list of analysis directives (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 63, line 28 – pg. 64, line 10; Figure 15H), from which a user can select, from a menu, one or more analysis directives to be added to the sequence to be performed on the results of the selected queries to generate analysis results (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 65, lines 26-28, Figure 15O); and a presentation of a list of

distribution directives (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 23, lines 5-12), from which a user can select, from a menu, one or more distribution directives to be added to the sequence and specifying how the analysis results are to be distributed (*see, e.g.*, Application, pg. 66, lines 1-2; Figure 15P).

(VI) GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

Pursuant to the December 9, 2005 final action claims 1-12, 14-23, 25-36, 38, 39 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Green (Pub. No. 2002/0165727 A1) in view of Katz (Pub. No. 2002/0174000 A1), and further in view of Nuemann (U.S. Patent No. 6,735,592 B1). A ground of rejection presented for review is whether each of Applicant's independent claims 1, 21, 22, 27, 33, 36 and 38, and, as a result, their respective dependent claims, are patentable over the cited references.

(VII) ARGUMENT

The rejection of each of Applicant's independent claims 1, 21, 22, 27, 33, 36 and 38 and, as a result, their respective dependent claims, is improper for at least the reasons outlined below.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. MPEP § 2142. Motivations to combine or modify references must come from the references themselves or be within the body of knowledge in the art. MPEP § 2143.01.

Claim 1

Claim 1 in its present form reads as follows:

A computer-implemented method for presenting a user interface for construction of an executable sequence to automate a decision-making process based on a collection of data, the method comprising:

displaying representations in the user interface of a plurality of discrete executable directives encapsulating their respective logic associated with the decision-making process, wherein at least one of the discrete executable directives defines a query against the collection of data, at least one of the discrete executable directives defines an analysis directive to analyze information derived from the query, and at least one of the discrete executable directives defines a distribution directive to distribute information based on analysis performed by the analysis directive; and

accepting user input to assemble a set of the discrete executable directives into a schedulable executable sequence, wherein at least one of the discrete executable directives is selected from a menu, and wherein the executable sequence comprises:

at least one discrete executable directive defining a query against the collection of data,

followed at some time by at least one discrete executable analysis directive operable to analyze information derived from the at least one discrete executable directive defining the query,

followed at some time by at least one discrete executable distribution directive operable to distribute information based on analysis performed by the at least one discrete executable analysis directive.

The present Office Action refers to Green in sections 0085 and 0092 and Figure 2 as teaching “displaying representations in the user interface of a plurality of discrete executable directives encapsulating their respective logic associated with the decision-making process.”

Sections 0085 and 0092 of Green are set forth below:

[0085] The focus of EAI is primarily directed into four major categories: database linking, application linking, data warehousing and virtual systems approach. Database linking involves implementing EAI between departmental databases for sharing information with each other and duplicating information as needed based on a set of rules. Application linking involves the enterprise sharing business processes and data between two or more applications. Data warehousing involves data being extracted from a variety of resources (data sources) and compiled in a specific database for analysis. This unified collection of data better supports management decision making by allowing enterprise users to view resource data from a variety of stovepipes from an enterprise perspective. Data warehouses contain a wide variety of data that present a coherent picture of business conditions for the enterprise at a single point in time. The final category of EAI is a common virtual system which involves using EAI in all aspects of enterprise computing, tying applications, resources and data together so that they appear as a unified application to a client.

[0092] In general, applications serve two primary purposes: (1) they perform routine business functions that support a business process; and (2) they access, process, and/or display data. At the highest level of abstraction, applications can then be organized by the functions they perform and the data they process. A representative diagram of an application is depicted on FIG. 2 as any of applications 202A-202N. Since an application is the building block of an information system, it can be expressed as a collection of software programs that execute user interface 204A, business rules 206A, and data access operations 208A, all of which are necessary to execute a business process. Typically, application 202A consists of a plurality of services that perform these operations. Services are any predefined, specialized results which are produced from specific software programs designed to perform explicit data processing operations when called upon. Services might be considered as either business logic services or infrastructure services. Business application services are designed and developed to provide specific computational, input/output, or data access operations when called upon at execution time, while infrastructure services provide computer platform operating systems, database management systems, or network platforms for supporting business applications.

Green describes, in the paragraphs above, applications that "perform routine business functions that support a business process," and that "access, process, and/or display data." Further, in Fig. 2, Green illustrates applications as having a user interface (e.g., 204A), business rules (e.g., 206A), and data access (e.g., 224A, 210A).

Green's description of applications does not teach or suggest "displaying representations in the user interface of a plurality of discrete executable directives encapsulating their respective logic associated with the decision-making process" as recited in claim 1.

Green describes that an application "can be expressed as a collection of software programs that execute user interface 204A." Green, paragraph [0092]. Green's description of applications that execute user interfaces does not describe "displaying representations in the user interface of a plurality of discrete executable directives encapsulating their respective logic associated with the decision-making process" as recited in claim 1. In fact, Green never mentions "displaying representations ... of discrete executable directives encapsulating their respective logic."

The present Office Action refers to Katz in sections 0085, 0182 and 0217 as teaching the limitations of "at least one discrete executable directive defining a query against the collection of data," "followed at some time by at least one discrete executable analysis directive operable to analyze information derived from the at least one discrete executable directive defining the query," and "followed at some time by at least one discrete executable distribution directive operable to distribute information based on analysis performed by the at least one discrete executable analysis directive."

Sections 0085, 0182 and 1217 of Katz are set forth below:

[0085] Data discovery module: This module preferably provides the user with access to an integrated view of pertinent information, which preferably includes internal data 30, external data 32, and integrated data based on computations of internal data 30 and external data 32. Data discovery module provides access to this data, so that a user may access, query, analyze and organize such data in a multitude of ways. All of the data are preferably stored in relational databases in datamart 74, organized for querying and report generation, and represented to the user in a plurality of formats, such as tables, lists, reports, etc.

[0182] In accordance with the present invention, once the normalized data is written into discovery database 192 and analysis database 194, then the data is transmitted from analysis database 194, OLAP server 198, and OLAP analysis cubes 1-N 200 to data application components 120. In response to direct user requests or in order to process data that are needed to satisfy user requests, applications, such as modules, in services and application server 120 query analysis database 194 and OLAP database in data application components 120.

[0217] In accordance with the present invention, discovery database 192 and analysis database 194 are types of relational databases. Although both internal data 30 and external data may be loaded into discovery database 192 and analysis database 194, the data preferably is distributed between the two databases, depending on which data must be used for report generation and OLAP analysis. The data stored in discovery database 192 is preferably mirrored in analysis database 194, and thus contains the same information but is aggregated and organized in a different format. In other words, the source data is the same, but it is arranged in a different way and for different reasons. Preferably partial replication of data occurs in discovery database 192.

None of the cited excerpts from Katz disclose "followed at some time by at least one discrete executable distribution directive operable to distribute information based on analysis performed by the at least one discrete executable analysis directive." More particularly, Katz's description of distributing data between two databases fails to teach or suggest this limitation as recited in claim

1. Katz, in the paragraphs set forth above, merely describes that internal and external data is distributed between discovery and analysis databases, and that this data may be mirrored in the two databases. The cited passages from Katz do not include any teaching concerning a distribution directive operable to distribute *information based on analysis*.

Because the cited references, individually or in combination, fail to describe at least one claim limitation of claim 1, i.e. the steps of “displaying representations in the user interface of a plurality of discrete executable directives encapsulating their respective logic associated with the decision-making process,” and “followed at some time by at least one discrete executable distribution directive operable to distribute information based on analysis performed by the at least one discrete executable analysis directive,” Applicants believe that claim 1 is not subject to a § 103(a) rejection and request that the rejection be withdrawn. Thus, claim 1 should be allowable over the cited art.

Claims 2-12, 14-20, and 41

Claims 2-12 and 14-20 depend on claim 1. Thus, at least for the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 1, claims 2-12 and 14-20 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 33 through 35

Each of system claims 33 through 35 includes the limitations described above in the discussion of the patentability of claim 1. Accordingly, claims 33 through 35 are also believed patentable over the cited references.

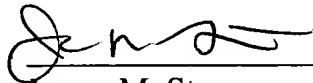
The Remaining Claims

Each of the remaining independent claims (21, 22, 27, 33, 36, and 38) in the present application reflect language regarding a distribution directive operable to distribute information based on analysis. Rather than belabor the language of each of these claims, Applicants point out that each claim recites a novel and non-obvious combination allowable over the cited art.

Similarly, the respective dependent claims 23, 25-26, 28-32, 34-35, 39, and 41 are allowable.

In view of the forgoing arguments, it is submitted that the rejection of Applicant's independent claims 1, 21, 22, 27, 33, 36 and 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is improper and, therefore, should be withdrawn. As a result it is respectfully requested that the Board reverse the rejection of Applicant's independent claims 1, 21, 22, 27, 33, 36 and 38, and allow these claims, and their respective dependent claims.

Respectfully submitted,


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(VIII) CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method for presenting a user interface for construction of an executable sequence to automate a decision-making process based on a collection of data, the method comprising:

displaying representations in the user interface of a plurality of discrete executable directives encapsulating their respective logic associated with the decision-making process, wherein at least one of the discrete executable directives defines a query against the collection of data, at least one of the discrete executable directives defines an analysis directive to analyze information derived from the query, and at least one of the discrete executable directives defines a distribution directive to distribute information based on analysis performed by the analysis directive; and

accepting user input to assemble a set of the discrete executable directives into a schedulable executable sequence, wherein at least one of the discrete executable directives is selected from a menu, and wherein the executable sequence comprises:

at least one discrete executable directive defining a query against the collection of data,

followed at some time by at least one discrete executable analysis directive operable to analyze information derived from the at least one discrete executable directive defining the query,

followed at some time by at least one discrete executable distribution directive operable to distribute information based on analysis performed by the at least one discrete executable analysis directive.

2. (Original) A computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the executable sequence is operable to distribute results of interim processing.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the executable sequence is operable to generate a targeted personal notification.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the executable sequence is operable to distribute a presentation of information comprising displayed elements, wherein a recipient of the presentation of information can drill down to detail not shown in the presentation by activating one of the displayed elements.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the analysis directive comprises a filter.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the analysis directive comprises arbitrary executable code entered at sequence definition time.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the analysis directives is operable to analyze a user's reaction to information distributed by at least one of the distribution directives.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the analysis directives is operable to determine whether a user acknowledged information distributed by at least one of the distribution directives.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the analysis directives is operable to determine whether a user concurred with an identification of a root cause of a problem in information distributed by at least one of the distribution directives.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the analysis directives is operable to present a recommended course of action to resolve a problem.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the analysis directives is operable to determine whether a user complied with a recommended course of action to resolve a problem.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one distribution directive is operable to distribute information to a wireless device.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one distribution directive is operable to distribute information via email.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one distribution directive is operable to distribute information via a web page.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the sequence comprises at least one gate.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein lineage of the sequence is tracked to indicate one or more sequences on which the sequence is based.

19. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the directives is pluggable.

20. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
executing the sequence, wherein during execution of the sequence, responsive to detecting a plurality of inputs to an analysis directive, instantiating multiple instances of the analysis directive for accepting the inputs.

21. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method of presenting a user interface for creating executable sequences from processing directives, the method comprising:

presenting a first display area comprising graphical representations of available processing directives, wherein at least one of processing directives is selected from a menu, and wherein the processing directives comprise query directives, analysis directives, and distribution directives;

presenting a second display area comprising graphical representations of processing directives selected as included in the executable sequence;

depicting coupled processing directives as graphically linked and conditionally coupled processing directives as graphically linked with a depiction of a condition associated with the link;

accepting a drag and drop operation to drop a processing directive from the first display area into the second display area; and

responsive to the drag and drop operation, adding the processing directive to the executable sequence, wherein the executable sequence comprises at least

one query directive, at least one analysis directive, and at least one distribution directive.

22. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method of defining query-based processing to be performed for a collection of data; the method comprising:

selecting a plurality of processing directives, wherein the processing directives are operable to generate, process, and distribute information from the collection of data, at least one of the processing directives is a query, and at least one of the processing directives is a template, wherein at least one of processing directives is selected from a menu;

associating the processing directives and the parameters into a schedulable executable sequence; and

specifying parameters for binding to the template to be used when the processing directives are executed.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein at least one of the processing directives is a template selected from a menu.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Original) The method of claim 22 further comprising:
specifying one or more destinations for the results of the processing directives; and

associating the destinations with the executable sequence.

26. (Original) The method of claim 22 further comprising:
accepting scheduling information indicating when the executable sequence is to be periodically executed; and
periodically executing the sequence according to the scheduling information.

27. (Previously Presented) A method of selectively distributing information from a data warehouse, the method comprising:
accepting a set of queries to be periodically run against the data warehouse, wherein the queries generate result sets, and wherein at least one of the queries is selected from a menu;
accepting a set of filters to selectively identify result sets of interest out of the result sets generated from the queries, wherein at least one of the filters is selected from a menu; and
accepting a set of distribution instructions indicating how the result sets of interest are to be distributed, wherein at least one of the distribution instructions is selected from a menu.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27 wherein at least one query out of the set of queries, at least one filter out of the set of filters and associated with the query, and at least one distribution instruction out of the set of distribution instructions and associated with the filter are combinable into a configurable unit.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28 wherein the configurable unit is sharable among a plurality of users.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 further comprising:
accepting an indication that the configurable unit is to be posted for sharing
by other users.

31. (Original) The method of claim 28 wherein the configurable unit
comprises a plurality of filters to be run in succession.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 further comprising:
accepting an indication that one of the queries is to be posted for sharing by
other users.

33. (Previously Presented) A computer-based system for presenting a
user interface for construction of an executable sequence to automate a decision-
making process based on a collection of data, the system comprising:

a user interface element for accepting user input to configure a plurality of
discrete executable directives encapsulating their respective logic associated with
the decision-making process, wherein at least one of the discrete executable
directives defines a query against the collection of data, at least one of the discrete
executable directives defines an analysis directive to analyze information derived
from the query, and at least one of the discrete executable directives defines a
distribution directive to distribute information based on the analysis; and

a user interface element for associating the plurality of discrete executable
directives into an executable sequence, wherein at least one of the discrete
executable directives is selected from a menu, and wherein the executable
sequence comprises at least one query against the collection of data,

followed by at least one analysis directive operable to analyze information
derived from the at least one query,

followed by at least one distribution directive operable to distribute information based on the at least one analysis directive.

34. (Original) The system of claim 33 further comprising:
a repository for storing configuration of the executable sequence.

35. (Original) The system of claim 34 further comprising:
a sequence executer operable to access the repository and execute the sequence.

36. (Previously Presented) A computer user interface for entering a combined unit of querying, filtering, and distribution, the user interface comprising:

means for entering a series of steps, wherein at least one of the steps is a query, at least one of the steps is a filter for filtering results generated based on the query, and at least one of the steps is a distribution directive indicating how the filtered results are to be distributed, and wherein at least one of the steps is selected from a menu; and

means for scheduling the steps for automatic periodic execution.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously Presented) A computer user interface for designating an executable sequence for providing an analysis of a collection of data, the computer user interface comprising:

a presentation of a list of queries, from which a user can select, from a menu, one or more queries to be added to the sequence;

a presentation of a list of analysis directives, from which a user can select, from a menu, one or more analysis directives to be added to the sequence to be performed on the results of the selected queries to generate analysis results; and

a presentation of a list of distribution directives, from which a user can select, from a menu, one or more distribution directives to be added to the sequence and specifying how the analysis results are to be distributed.

39. (Original) The computer user interface of claim 38 further comprising:

a presentation of scheduling options by which a user can schedule the executable sequence for periodic execution.

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one discrete executable directive defining a query against the collection of data is followed immediately in the executable sequence by the at least one discrete executable analysis directive, and the at least one discrete executable analysis directive is followed immediately in the executable sequence by the at least one discrete executable distribution directive.

(IX) EVIDENCE APPENDIX

Not applicable

(X) RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

Not applicable